Dr. King's Nephew Denies Payoff On Controversial TV Biography

ATLANTA, Feb. 17 (UPI)—Members of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family were paid a "consulting fee' by makers of the controversial television movie "King," but did not receive "any payoff," A.D. King Jr., the oldest nephew of the late civil rights leader, said yesterday. He denied charges by the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy that makers of the NBC three-part biographical movie about Dr. King's life had paid money "to someone."

"We didn't ask for any payoff and no one approached us about a payoff and nobody needed a payoff," Mr. King said. We received a consulting fee at the beginning, but that's work and nobody can argue with somebody being paid for work."

Mr. Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and several other black leaders have criticized the film for portraying Dr. King as a weak, indecisive man.